

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School
Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center
Twentynine Palms, California

OFFICER STUDENT HANDOUT

Air Support Control Officers Course (T0A)

LESSON DESIGNATOR :1.01

LESSON TITLE : MAGTF

Updated 12 Dec 01

| <u>HOURS</u> | <u>METHOD</u> | <u>TRAINING SUPPORT EQUIPMENT</u> |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1.0 | L, MM | CCP, MM, SH, WB |

1. **LEARNING OBJECTIVES.**

a. **TERMINAL LEARNING OBJECTIVE.** In the classroom and without the aid of references, pass written tests encompassing lectures 1.01 through 4.05 with a score of 80% or greater.
(7208.109.1)

b. **ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVES.**

(1) Select from a list of options, the four elements of a MAGTF, without the aid of but in accordance with the reference. (7208.109.1a)

(2) Select from a list of options, the four basic types of Marine Air Ground Task Forces, without the aid of but in accordance with the reference. (7208.109.1b)

(3) Select from a list of options, the size of the Ground Combat Element for a given MAGTF, without the aid of but in accordance with the listed reference. (7208.109.1c)

(4) Select from a list of options, the size of the Aviation Combat Element for a given MAGTF, without the aid of but in accordance with the listed reference. (7208.109.1d)

(5) Select from a list of options, the size of the Combat Service Support Element for a given MAGTF, without the aid of but in accordance with the listed reference.
(7208.109.1e)

1. **Marine Air-Ground Task Force.** The MAGTFs are the cornerstone for what makes the Marine Corps so unique and so effective. They are integrated combined arms forces structured to accomplish specific missions. **The composition and size of MAGTFs may vary, but the organizational structures will always include a single command element with subordinate ground combat element, aviation combat element, and combat service support element.**

a. The four elements of a MAGTF are described below

1. Command Element (CE). The CE provides command, control, and coordination for planning and executing operations.

2. Ground Combat Element (GCE). The GCE conducts ground operations in support of the MAGTF mission. It is formed around an infantry organization and is reinforced with artillery, reconnaissance, armor, and engineer forces. The GCE can range in size and composition from small teams to one or two Marine Divisions.

3. Aviation Combat Element (ACE). The ACE conducts air operations in support of the MAGTF mission. It is formed around an aviation headquarters and can vary in size from an aviation detachment to one or more Marine aircraft wings.

4. Combat Service Support Element (CSSE). The CSSE provides the full range of combat service support functions. It is formed around a combat service support headquarters and may vary in size and composition from a support detachment to one or more Force Service Support Groups.

The commanders of these subordinate organizations report directly to the MAGTF commander. Although there are always four major elements within a MAGTF, other temporary, separate task organizations may be required to perform combat support and/or combat service support functions. These organizations may include, but are not limited to, landing support, engineering, force reconnaissance, artillery, and electronic warfare task organizations.

2. **Types of Marine Air-Ground Task Forces.** There are four basic types of MAGTFs: MEF, MEB, MEU, and SPMAGTF.

a. Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF). The MEF is the principal Marine Corps warfighting organization. It is normally commanded by a lieutenant general. A MEF is self-sustainable for 60 days when deployed, but can extend operations with external support from other U.S. services or through wartime host nation support agreements.

1. The size of a GCE, ACE, and CSSE for MEF are described below

a. A GCE in a MEF can range in size from less than one to two or more divisions.

b. An ACE in a MEF can range in size from less than one to two or more aircraft wings.

c. A CSSE in a MEF can range in size from one or more Force Service Support Groups.

b. Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB). The MEB is a task organization, usually commanded by a brigadier general. The MEB can conduct a range of military operations, including functioning alone, as part of a Joint Task Force (JTF), or as the lead echelon of the MEF. MEB operations may be supported from its sea base, facilities ashore, or a combination of both. The MEB is self-sustainable for 30 days.

1. The size of a GCE, ACE, and CSSE for MEB are described below

a. A GCE in a MEB is normally composed of a reinforced infantry regiment.

b. An ACE in a MEB is normally composed of a composite aircraft group.

c. A CSSE in a MEB is normally composed of a brigade service support group.

c. Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). Forward-deployed MEUs provide an immediate sea-based response to meet forward presence and limited power projection requirements. They can be and are used for just about anything when called upon. A MEU is not designed for sustained operations

but can established a significant amount of combat power ashore when necessary.

1. The MEU is commanded by a Colonel and deploys with 15 days of supplies.

2. The size of a GCE, ACE, and CSSE for MEU are described below

a. A GCE in a MEU is normally composed of a reinforced infantry battalion (3/5 (rein)).

b. An ACE in a MEU is a reinforced Helicopter Squadron (HMM-262(rein)).

c. A CSSE in a MEU is a MSSG (MEU Service Support Group)

3. All forward-deployed MEUs have completed specialized training and evaluation and are designated special operations capable (SOC). Currently, Marine Forces Atlantic and Pacific maintain forward-deployed MEU(SOC)s (Special in the Mediterranean and Persian Gulf regions.

a. MEU(SOC) capabilities are designated after additional training. The following is a list of MEU(SOC) missions.

- (1) Amphibious raids
- (2) Limited objective attacks
- (3) Protection and evacuation of noncombatants/protection of installation in a nonpermissive or permissive environment.
- (4) Show of force operations
- (5) Reinforcement operations
- (7) Mobile training teams (MTTs)
- (8) Civic action operations
- (9) Military tactical deception operations
- (10) Fire support control
- (11) Counterintelligence operations
- (12) Initial terminal guidance (ITG)
- (13) Signal intelligence (SIGINT)/electronic warfare (EW) operations.
- (14) Tactical recovery of aircraft, equipment, and personnel (TRAP)
- (15) Recovery operations
- (16) Specialized demolition operations

(17) Military operations in urban terrain
(MOUT)

(18) *In extremis* hostage rescue

d. Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force (SPMAGTF). The third MAGTF composition is the Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force (SPMAGTF). Regardless of the mission, when that 911 call comes in, America will do what it has always done: SEND IN THE MARINES!

1. A SPMAGTF is task organized to accomplish specific missions for which a MEF or a MEU would be inappropriate or too large to employ. SPMAGTFs can be organized, trained and equipped to conduct a wide variety of expeditionary operations in response to a crisis or peacetime mission. They are designated by location, such as SPMAGTF (Liberia), SPMAGTF (Somalia), or SPMAGTF (Pohang). Their duties cover the spectrum from noncombatant evacuation to disaster relief and humanitarian missions.

3. MAGTF Locations. The two major types of MAGTFs, the MEU and the MEF are located throughout the Marine Corps Bases as well as deployed throughout the world on a rotating basis.

a. Marine Expeditionary Units.

1. 11th, 13th, 15th: MCB Camp Pendleton, CA
2. 22nd, 24th, 26th: MCB Camp Lejeune, NC
3. 31st MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, JP

b. Marine Expeditionary Forces.

1. I MEF: MCB Camp Pendleton, CA
2. II MEF: MCB Camp Lejeune, NC
3. III MEF: MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, JP

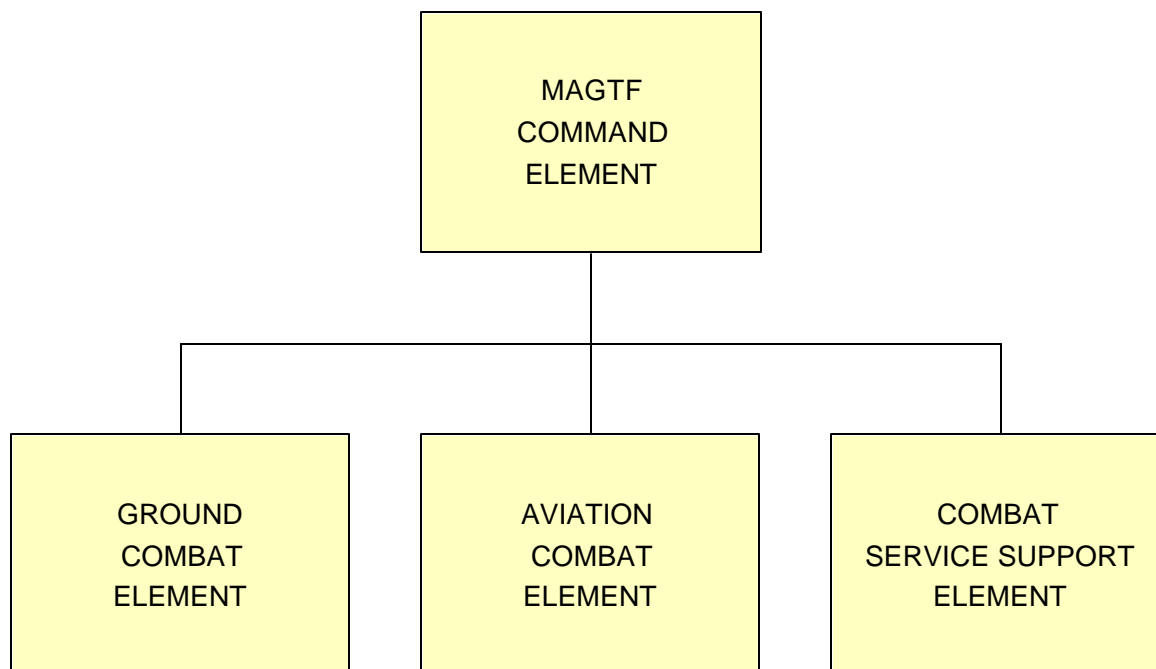
FIGURES

FIGURE 1: Marine Air-Ground Task Forces (Typical Organization).

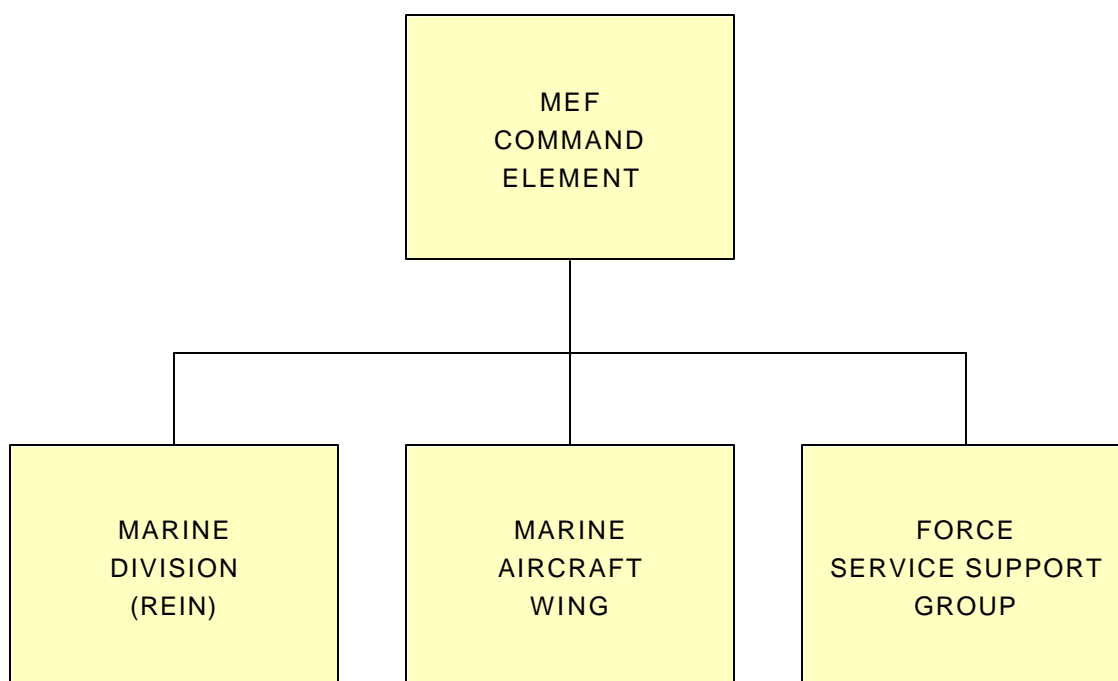


FIGURE 2: Marine Expeditionary Force

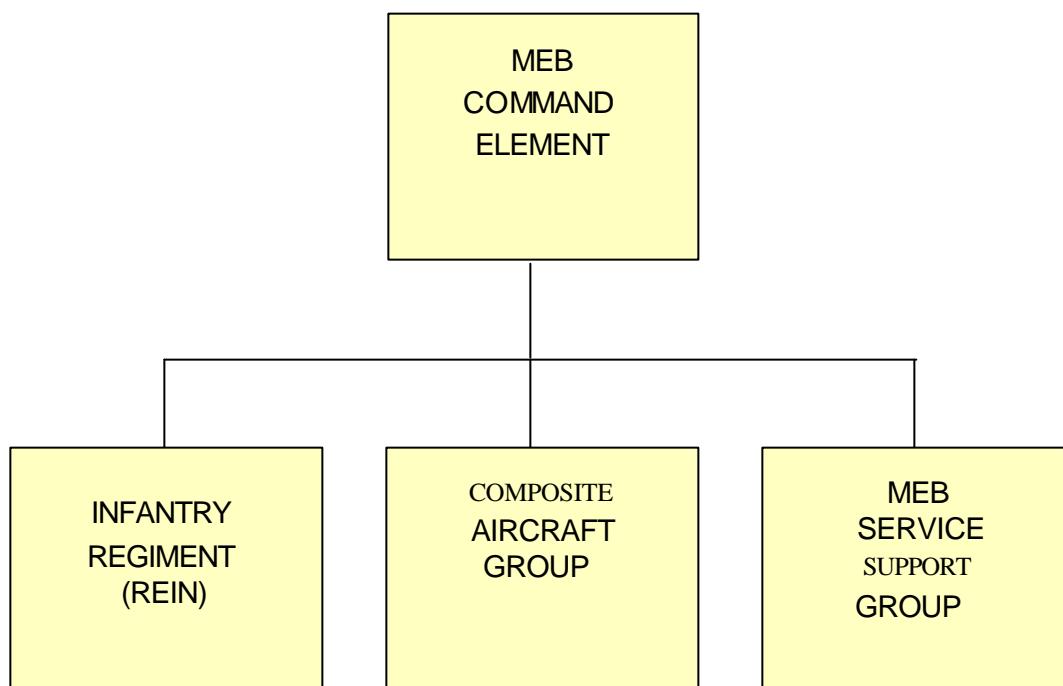


FIGURE 3: Marine Expeditionary Brigade

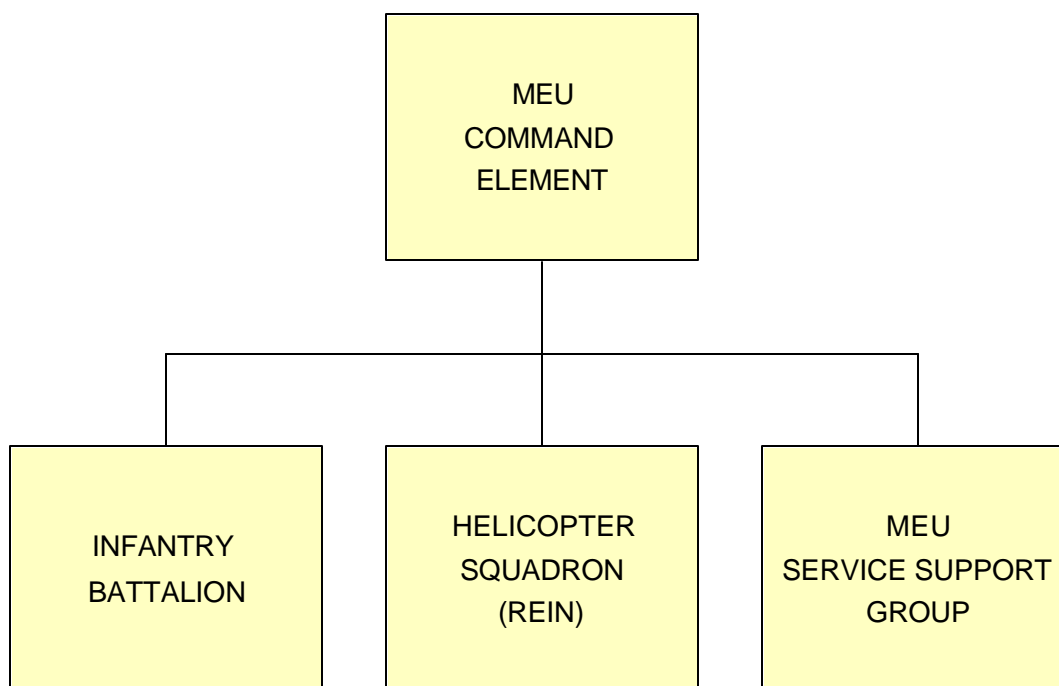


FIGURE 4: Marine Expeditionary Unit

References:

MCWP 3-1, Ground Combat Operations

"Marines" Magazine; Feb. 1998, Marine Almanac Issue